



CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD

# NEWS Release

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## **California National Guard Support to Katrina Nears 1000 Troops**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Nearly 1000 California Air and Army National Guard personnel statewide are on duty supporting relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

More than 720 troops from California are on the ground in La. restoring security and providing humanitarian relief and more than 200 are supporting the effort from here at home.

The California Army Guard's 870<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, based out of Pittsburg, Calif. arrived in La. Wednesday and has since been operating at the Louis Armstrong International Airport. The 2-185 Armor Battalion from San Diego arrived Saturday. Their mission is to secure businesses and residences in nearby New Orleans. The 240<sup>th</sup> Signal Company based out of Compton, the 118<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company in Stockton and Air National Guard units from throughout the state are also supporting the efforts on the ground in La.

"It's an honor for the California guard and the rest of our guard brothers to be here. Every little contribution from all the states is going to make a huge difference," said Col. Steve Dabadie, Chief of Staff for the Louisiana National Guard.

California National Guard soldiers and airmen left their own families, homes and jobs on a moments notice to help those in need in the affected areas. Nationwide, The National Guard is providing 74% of the uniformed military support to relief efforts.

"It's astounding how fast the states are being put together and deployed in such a short time. I'm amazed by the quick response from our fellow National Guard states," said Col. David Aycock, joint task force operations officer for the Louisiana National Guard.

The California Joint Task Force (CJTF) is commanded by Col. Scott Johnson, chief of staff of the Army Guard's 100<sup>th</sup> Joint Combat Support Command in Fairfield. The CJTF secured its operations at Naval Air Station New Orleans, which is about a four-hour flight from New Orleans. The CJTF key elements provide operations, logistics and communications in a coordinated effort to assist Louisiana's recovery.

The California Air National Guard is using C-130 and KC-135 aircraft to transport troops, equipment and necessities to NAS New Orleans. The Naval Air Station is the main transfer point for all supporting states.

"Nothing comes close to the catastrophic event that happened here in the entire United States," said Dabadie. "That's why we're so thankful for California and other states for joining us. Our recovery efforts will now run quickly and smoothly."

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